

REMARKS

In the present Amendment, claim 7 has been amended to recite that the fluoro-polymerized material has a volatile matter index of not higher than 15. Support is found, for example, at page 22, lines 10 to 15 of the specification. No new matter has been added, and entry of the Amendment is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-5 and 7-10 are pending.

Applicants note with appreciation that claims 1-5 are allowed.

The abstract of the disclosure was objected to because said abstract is not a single paragraph.

A new and single paragraphed abstract was submitted in the Amendment under 37 C.F.R. § 1.111 filed June 9, 2008. Nonetheless, a new and single paragraphed abstract is being submitted herewith. Withdrawal of the objection to the abstract is requested.

Claims 7-10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Schreyer (US 3,085,083).

This rejection should be withdrawn because Schreyer does not disclose or render obvious the present invention.

The fluoro-polymerized material of present claim 7 comprises a polymer having terminal groups of $-\text{CF}_2\text{H}$ and not more than 20 unstable terminal groups (Q) per 10^6 carbon atoms, and does not substantially contain a metal residue containing an alkali metal element and/or alkaline earth metal element. Therefore, the presently claimed fluoro-polymerized material has a volatile matter index of not higher than 15.

If the fluoro-polymerized material comprises a polymer having a large number of unstable terminal groups (Q), the unstable terminal groups (Q) are thermally unstable and are decomposed on the occasion of melt molding, generating a volatile matter and thus deteriorating the moldability of the fluoropolymer. See, page 1, lines 14-17 of the specification. Therefore, the fluoro-polymerized material comprising a polymer having a large number of unstable terminal groups (Q) per 10^6 carbon atoms has a volatile matter index of higher than 15.

If the fluoro-polymerized material contains a metal residue containing an alkali metal element and/or alkaline earth metal element, the metal residue may possibly cause degradation and decomposition of the fluoropolymer at high processing temperatures. See, page 2, lines 12-14 of the specification. Therefore, the fluoro-polymerized material containing a metal residue containing an alkali metal element and/or alkaline earth metal element has a volatile matter index of higher than 15.

As noted, the presently claimed fluoro-polymerized material has a volatile matter index of not higher than 15.

In contrast, the fluoro-polymerized material in Example V of the Schreyer has a volatile matter index of higher than 15 (20 to 110). See Table IV of Schreyer.

The production method of Schreyer's Example V allows a large number of carboxyl groups not converted to $-\text{CF}_2\text{H}$ and remain. See, page 1, lines 21-31 of the specification.

The remaining carboxyl groups are thermally unstable and are decomposed on the occasion of melt molding, generating a volatile matter. See, page 1, lines 14-17 of the

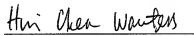
specification. Therefore, the fluoro-polymerized material in Example V of Schreyer has a volatile matter index of higher than 15.

For the above reasons, present claims 7-10 are novel and unobvious over Schreyer. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the §102(b) rejection of claims 7-10 based on Schreyer are respectfully requested.

Allowance of claims 7-10 is respectfully requested. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,


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